



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431
Website: <http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **MARCH 18, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Frank Bacio
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

Vito Cannella

Others Present

Captain Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department
Commander Margaret Ruiz-Wagner, Sheriff's Department
Lieutenant, Randall J. Olson, Sheriff's Department, Food Services Unit
Jimmy Ledesma, LCMC Sheriff's Department, Food Services Unit
Rahman Shabazz, Probation Department
Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services
Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health
Cesar Menchaca, Internal Services Department
Alan P. Henry, Community Care Licensing
Angelica Lopez, Community Care Licensing

Staff

Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff
Garen Khachian, Commission Services Staff

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chair Montaña welcomed everyone in attendance and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

Sheriff's Department:

Commander Margaret Ruiz-Wagner distributed handouts and then gave the following report:

- The grand total of inmate assaults on staff was 16.
- The total number of staff personnel injured was 7.
- The total number of inmates injured was 14.
- There was a total of zero (0) complaints by inmates regarding the use of force by deputy personnel.

Lieutenant, Randall J. Olson, Food Services Unit, Sheriff's Department introduced himself and gave the following report:

- The Food Serving Unit (FSU) produces 2,500 meals each day for the 48 courts within Los Angeles County; 5,600 meals daily for the inmates who are processed in and out of the Inmate Reception Center; 6,500 medical diet meals daily for inmates with medical conditions and religious restrictions.
- The Food Serving Unit delivers 2,710 meals daily to 23 patrol stations throughout the County of Los Angeles; produces 305 special disciplinary isolation diets; caters 684 special events per year; provides emergency food to all field personnel during emergencies and produces cafeteria food for employees at a reasonable cost.
- The Food Serving Unit has a staff of 251 working 24 hours a day at 8 kitchens throughout the County of Los Angeles with an annual budget of \$28,000,000 in raw food at an average cost of \$2.60 per inmate for three meals a day.

Captain Asmus reported the following:

- The light fixtures at Downey Courthouse have been fixed.
- The door locks at Inglewood Courthouse have been fixed.
- Video Conferencing is being used at Edelman Courthouse and the program has been successful.

Commissioner Bigby joined the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Probation Department:

Mr. Rahman Shabazz introduced himself and informed the Commission he is representing Mr. Michael Varela, and reported the following:

- Chief Taylor is reviewing Department practices of billing caregivers of detained youths in group homes after an article dated February 27, 2009 in the Los Angeles Times questioned County Supervisors.

Department of Children and Family Services:

Ms. Elizabeth Howard reported the following for the period of February 18, 2009 - March 17, 2009:

- The reported number of physical abuse allegations was 5.
- The reported number of sexual abuse allegations was 5.
- The reported number of general neglect allegations was 5.
- The reported number of runaways from group homes was 142.

Ms. Dorothy Channel reported on the following events:

- "Kids Day at City Hall", in honor of "Child Abuse Prevention Month" will be held on April 22, 2009 at Los Angeles City Hall, to teach elementary students ways to keep themselves safe in their community and on the internet.
- The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services is hosting a "Luggage Drive", to benefit foster youths. Donations of new and very light worn luggage may be taken to Edelman Children's Court through May 3, 2009.
- "It Takes A Village To Raise A Foster Child", a "Foster Care Forum" to be held on April 21, 2009 at the Redondo Beach Main Library and will provide information on volunteer activities from special one-time events to mentoring, advocacy and fostering opportunities.
- The "8th Annual Community Career Fair & Resources Expo", sponsored by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services to benefit foster youths 16 years of age or older, senior citizens, and the community at large to be held on April 8, 2009 at Robinson Park.
- The "Second Annual One Child at a Time Celebrity Basketball Game", to be held on July 18, 2009 at USC Galen Center. Proceeds will benefit the "Children and Family Services Trust Fund and Scholarships" for college bound foster youths.
- "Hire LA's Youth" a summer employment opportunity for youths ages 14-21 to learn job skills and earn a paycheck. Youths will work with government offices, non-profit organizations or community agencies part-time for six (6) weeks and earn \$8.00 an hour.

Department of Auditor-Controller: No representative was present.

Department of Mental Health:

Mr. Paul McIver reported the following:

- The Department of Mental Health is concerned about the lack of service being offered to Glass Home clients due to the closure of all Glass Homes.

Internal Services Department:

Mr. Cesar Menchaca introduced himself and informed the Commission he is representing Mr. Michael Henderson.

Community Care Licensing Division:

Ms. Angelica Lopez gave the following report:

- Community Care Licensing is conducting business as usual and furloughs have been suspended. The office is open for business everyday however employees are required to take two days off a month without pay.

Mr. Alan P. Henry gave the following report:

- St. Paul's Group Home #2 (Los Angeles) – 56, #1, St. Paul's Group Home #3 (Los Angeles) – 55, #4, have officially closed as of 3/18/09.
- Five Acres (Long Term Group Home) (Altadena) – 21, #1, has officially closed as of 2/17/09.
- New Outlook Boys Home (Los Angeles) – 40, #2, has officially been cited and fined \$600 by Community Care Licensing for violations and failing to take corrective actions within the specified time frame.

Chair Montaña and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Bigby, and unanimously carried, the minutes of February 11, 2009, were approved with no changes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

There was none.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,035.93.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORT

There was none.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM MARCH 11, 2009, TO MARCH 17, 2009

Youth Beacon – 63, #3 – Commissioner Moore

The facility was visited on March 12, 2009, and the home was closed.

Little People world # – 34, #4 – Commissioners Bacio and Hall

The facility was visited on March 12, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Needs documentation for clothing and spending allowance; daily activity schedule, house rules, chores, emergency telephone numbers and emergency evacuation plans not posted; disaster drills not documented; smoke detector in bedroom #1 needs a battery.

Rosemary Children's Services (Bonnie) – 51, #4 – Commissioner Bigby

The facility was visited on March 13, 2009, and no one was home.

Pinnacle Foundation (Corning) – 46, #4 – Commissioners Montaño and Hammargren

The facility was visited on March 16, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

T& T Home For Boys – 57, #4 – Commissioner Montaño

The facility was visited on March 17, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Rosemary Children's Services (Bonnie) – 51, #4 – Commissioner Bigby

The facility was visited on March 17, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Compton Superior Court – Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore

The facility was visited on March 17, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Probation area needs emergency evacuation plan; need to steam clean the area.

Probation Department will report back to the Commission regarding the above issues at Compton Superior Court during the next Business Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

An invitation was received from the “Cannon House and Holy Helping Hands” to the “1st Annual Fundraiser Empowering People to Become New Creations in Christ” to be held on March 21, 2009 at the” Proud Bird”.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Davis
Commission Services Division